

BS01299
U.S. Application No. 09/995,648 Art Unit 2131
Response to April 2, 2007 Final Office Action

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JUN 29 2007

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated April 2, 2007, the Assignee respectfully requests continued examination. The Assignee requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. The Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims distinguish over the cited documents to *Sitaraman* and to *Hitchcock*.

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 23-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,718,332 to *Sitaraman et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 6,460,042 to *Hitchcock et al.* Claims 8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Sitaraman* in view of *Hitchcock* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,078,918 to *Allen et al.*

The Assignee shows, however, that the pending claims fully comply with the patent laws. Moreover, the Assignee shows that the pending claims distinguish over the cited documents to *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and *Allen*, whether considered alone or in any combination.

Rejection under § 112

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 23-30, however, have been canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot.

The remaining independent claims, however, have been amended. The pending independent claims have been amended to remove "IsBetween" and "IsMember." The independent claims, instead, have been amended to recite "*the validation rules also changing a validation function from checking between two integer values to checking for membership in a*

BS01299

U.S. Application No. 09/995,648 Art Unit 2131
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ser.” Support for such features may be found at least at paragraph [0038] of the as-filed application. The Assignee thus respectfully asserts that claims 1-30 fully comply with the patent laws.

Rejection of Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-30 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,718,332 to Sitaraman *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 6,460,042 to Hitchcock *et al.* If the Office wishes to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met: 1) combining prior art requires “some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill”; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) all the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE, § 2143 (orig. 8th Edition) (hereinafter “M.P.E.P.”).

First, claims 23-30 have been canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot.

Second, claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-22 cannot be obvious. These claims recite, or incorporate, features that are not taught or suggested by the combined teaching of Sitaraman and Hitchcock. Independent claim 1, for example, recites “*tables of validation rules stored in said storage mechanism, the validation rules changing the data fields to be validated to ASCII character strings, the validation rules also changing a validation function from checking between two integer values to checking for membership in a set*” (emphasis added). Support for such features may be found at least at paragraphs [0037] and [0038] of the as-filed application. Independent claim 1 also recites “*the validation rules having a FIELD view as a highest priority validation such that a least amount of the data fields are sorted by the FIELD view, and when a FIELD name occurs in a table, then the for highest priority validation is performed.*” Support for such features may be found at least at paragraphs [0018] and [0019] of the as-filed application. Independent claim 1 is reproduced below, and independent claims 12 and 22 recite similar features.

BS01299

U.S. Application No. 09/995,648 Art Unit 2131
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1. A system for use with web-based applications comprising:

a client computer system running one or more web browsers capable of processing web forms;

a web server communicating with the client computer system and providing validation services, the web server capable of processing Java code and web-based forms, the web server receiving a validation request from the client computer system that comprises data fields for validation;

a storage mechanism coupled to said web server, the web server validating the data fields with information compiled from said storage mechanism;

tables of validation rules stored in said storage mechanism, the validation rules changing the data fields to be validated to ASCII character strings, the validation rules also changing a validation function from checking between two integer values to checking for membership in a set, the validation rules comprising at least three hierarchically organized views, with each view utilizing an execution sequence of validation methods, the execution sequence designating an order of execution for the validation methods, and when a view has no validation rules, then a lower priority view's execution sequence is performed, the validation rules having a FIELD view as a highest priority validation such that a least amount of the data fields are sorted by the FIELD view, and when a FIELD name occurs in a table, then the for highest priority validation is performed; and

the web server comparing the data fields to be validated to the validation rules,

wherein each validation method compares validation values to the data fields

Sitaraman and *Hitchcock* are silent to all these features. Examiner Abrishamkar is correct — *Sitaraman* discusses a data validator. See U.S. Patent 6,718,332 to *Sitaraman et al.* at column 7, line 11 through column 8, line 14. Examiner Abrishamkar is also correct — *Hitchcock* discusses first and second stage validations for college admission applications. See U.S. Patent 6,460,042 to *Hitchcock et al.* at column 6, lines 17-38. The combined teaching of *Sitaraman* and *Hitchcock*, however, fails to disclose validation rules that “chang[e] a validation function from checking between two integer values to checking for membership in a set.” The combined teaching of *Sitaraman* and *Hitchcock* also fails to disclose “validation rules having a FIELD view as a highest priority validation such that a least amount of the data fields are sorted by the FIELD view, and when a FIELD name occurs in a table, then the for highest priority validation is performed.” Because the proposed combination of *Sitaraman* and *Hitchcock* is

BS01299

U.S. Application No. 09/995,648 Art Unit 2131
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entirely silent to at least these features, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-22 to be obvious. The Office is thus respectfully requested to remove the § 103 rejection of these claims.

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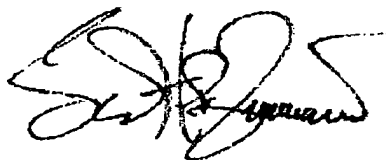
JUN 29 2007

Rejection of Claims 8 & 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Sitaraman* in view of *Hitchcock* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,078,918 to Allen *et al.* Examiner Abrishamkar is correct — Allen discusses a hash table for looking up weighting factors. See U.S. Patent 6,078,918 to Allen *et al.* at column 10, lines 64-66. Dependent claims 8 and 19, however, respectively depend from independent claims 1 and 12 and, thus, incorporate the same distinguishing features. The combined teaching of *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and Allen still fails to disclose validation rules that “*chang[e] a validation function from checking between two integer values to checking for membership in a set.*” The combined teaching of *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and Allen also fails to disclose “*validation rules having a FIELD view as a highest priority validation such that a least amount of the data fields are sorted by the FIELD view, and when a FIELD name occurs in a table, then the for highest priority validation is performed.*” Because *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and Allen are entirely silent to at least these features, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider claims 8 and 19 to be obvious. The Office is thus respectfully requested to remove the § 103 rejection of these claims.

If any questions arise, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 469-2629 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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